

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 3 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A numerical control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of controlled axes and comprising:
  - storage means for storing a command program describing movement amounts or positional information of controlled axes commanded in association with ~~the~~ axis numbers of the controlled axes; and
  - program analyzing means for analyzing and decoding the command program ~~to decode it~~ into the movement amounts or positional information of the axes;
  - wherein the plurality of controlled axes are controlled according to the movement amounts or positional information analyzed by the program analyzing means.
2. (Original) The numerical control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising variable storage means for storing controlled axis numbers to be designated and set by the command program, wherein the controlled axis numbers can be designated by using variables.
3. (Currently Amended) A numerical control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of controlled axes, comprising:
  - storage means for storing correspondences between axis addresses designating the controlled axes and controlled axis numbers; and
  - controlled axis number obtaining means for obtaining the controlled axis numbers from the axis addresses written in the command program, based on the correspondences stored in the storage means;
  - wherein the plurality of controlled axes are controlled based on the controlled axis numbers obtained from the controlled axis number obtaining means.
4. (Original) The numerical control apparatus according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the controlled axis numbers are designated by using operational expressions.